

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are currently under consideration. Claims 14-30 have been withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration of the patent application is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35USC112, second paragraph as indefinite for failing to provide an antecedent basis for "an unexpanded section". It is respectfully submitted that the above amendment to the claim cures the informality noted by the Examiner.

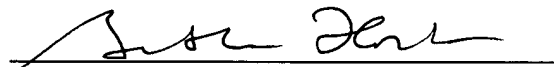
Claim 1 was rejected under 35USC102(b) as anticipated by Jang (USPN 4,763,654). It is initially to be noted that the catheter shaft is a component of an intraluminal catheter that is clearly distinguishable from a balloon that may be disposed about such shaft. Such distinction is well known in the art as is borne out by the description in the specification at for example page 5, lines 21-24 as well as by the description in the cited reference at for example col 9, lines 53-54. As such, the reference clearly shows a catheter **shaft** 12 having an outer diameter that incrementally **decreases** within each balloon and as a result, no distal section of the shaft has a larger diameter than a section proximal thereto as is specified in the rejected claim. It is therefore respectfully submitted that anticipation is clearly avoided. Moreover, because the cited reference in effect teaches away from the present invention as claimed by providing for a distal extremity of the catheter shaft that has a decreased rather than increased diameter, it is respectfully submitted that obviousness is similarly avoided.

Claims 2-6 were rejected under 35USC103(a) as obvious over Jang. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the patentability of the underlying independent claim as argued above, all claims depending therefrom are similarly non-obvious.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant earnestly believes the application to be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that it be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice Amended) An intraluminal catheter comprising:
 - a) an elongated catheter shaft having proximal and distal ends, a port in the distal end, and an inner lumen extending at least within a distal portion of the catheter shaft to the port in the distal end; and
 - b) a distal extremity of the catheter shaft having a tubular portion with an expanded section of cylindrical shape having an outer diameter greater than an outer diameter of [an unexpanded section of the] a tubular portion proximal to the expanded section.